

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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June 22, 2004

FROM: **KEITH GORDON, M.D.**, Interim Director
 Department of Behavioral Health

SUBJECT: CONTRACTS FOR CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Find it is in the County's best interests to contract with Victor Treatment Centers, Inc. as a sole source provider for Children's Residential Services to residents of San Bernardino County.

2. Approve a sole source contract with Victor Treatment Centers, Inc. in the amount of \$954,475 for the provision of Children's Residential Services to children of San Bernardino County for the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Approval of this item will allow the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) to continue to provide Children's Residential Services (CRS) to residents of San Bernardino County in FY 2004/05.

DBH operates a continuum of care system that consists of County operated and contracted service providers delivering a variety of mental health treatment services within each geographic region of the County. Each provider has a specific responsibility and role within the County's treatment delivery system. Assembly Bill (AB) 3632 and accompanying emergency regulations were developed by the California State Legislature in 1985 to maximize and coordinate services to special education pupils in the State of California with no out-of-pocket costs to parents. The emergency regulations applying to mental health were implemented in July 1986. The permanent regulations were implemented under AB 2726 in 1996.

Children's Residential Service providers are State Department of Social Services (DSS) licensed group homes with special designations. Delivery of these services is performed by these state licensed group homes according to Rate Classification Levels (RCL) for all target population including seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) children and adolescents. The intent is to provide interventions to children at risk of needing higher levels of care including hospitalization in psychiatric facilities. Priority is given to SED minors who are at risk of needing higher levels of care and those with AB 2726 status.

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Victor Treatment Centers, Inc. (Victor) has been a provider of CRS services since fiscal year 2000/01. Children who are placed into this facility suffer severe emotional and behavioral disorders that require a high level of therapeutic services to help them recover and achieve a socially acceptable functioning level. Victor provides RCL – 14, group home care for SED children from the County of San Bernardino. RCL ranges from 4 to 14 depending on the level of therapeutic services required with the higher number being the highest level. Currently, the contractor has a vast statewide system of over 30 RCL – 14 group homes including six beds in the County. The contractor also provides services such as Children's Intensive Services (CIS) and day treatment for children including those who are hearing impaired under separate agreements with the Department. At present, Victor and Silverlake Youth Services are the only two providers of RCL –14. State DSS and DBH must certify RCL –14 group home services in order the contractors to operate their facility. The Human Service System, Probation and DBH have contracted with Silverlake Youth Services, a non-profit agency, to provide RCL – 14 level residential placement services since March 25, 2003. Victor is the only other provider serving this population.

Either DBH, Probation, or the Department of Children's Services places the children in the facility after a review and approval of a recommendation by the County Interagency Placement Council, a DBH evaluation, and a certification process. Without this program, minors needing a highly supervised group home placement would either require acute care hospitalization or a state hospital setting.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item was reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel (Charles J. Larkin, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5433) on May 28, 2004. This item was also reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Beatriz Valdez, Administrative Analyst, 388-0211) on June 15, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approval of this item will provide Children's Residential Services to San Bernardino County recipients in the amount of \$954,475 for FY 2004/05. Funding for this service was included in the department's fiscal year 2004/05 proposed budget. This service is 100% funded by State realignment. There is no local cost to the County.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends approval as it will provide mandated services while imposing no local cost.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: Keith Gordon, M.D., Interim Director
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